

**Listing of Claims.**

Please amend the claims as shown below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application.

- 1-5. (Canceled).
6. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid sequence encoding:
  - (a) a peptide immunochemically reactive with antibodies to the Epstein Barr Virus (EBV) VCA-p18 or VCA-p40 proteins, comprising at least part an immunoreactive fragment of the VCA-p18 or VCA-p40 protein, encoded within the EBV open reading frames BFRF3 and BdRF1, respectively, or
  - (b) a functional variant of said peptide described in (a), wherein said variant is immunochemically reactive with antibodies to the Epstein Barr Virus (EBV) VCA-p18 or VCA-p40 proteins.
7. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid sequence, comprising the nucleic acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO.: 1 or a subsequence thereof, wherein said subsequence encodes an Epstein-Barr Virus peptide comprising an epitope that is immunochemically reactive with antibodies to the Epstein-Barr Virus VCA-p18 protein.
8. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid sequence, comprising the nucleic acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO.: 3 or a subsequence thereof, wherein said subsequence encodes an Epstein-Barr Virus peptide comprising an epitope that is immunochemically reactive with antibodies to the Epstein-Barr Virus VCA-p40 protein.
9. (Currently amended) A vector molecule comprising at the nucleic acid sequence according to claim 6.

10–22. (Canceled).

23. (Previously presented) A method for the amplification and the detection of an Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence in a sample comprising:

(a) providing a sample,

(b) amplifying an Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence present in the sample with at least one nucleic acid sequence according to claim 6 or fragment thereof, and

(c) detecting the presence or absence of an amplified Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence in the amplification products, wherein the presence of an amplified Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence indicates that the sample contains an Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence.

24. (Canceled).

25. (Previously presented) A test amplification kit for detecting the presence of an Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence in a sample comprising:

(a) a set of primers comprising at least one nucleic acid sequence according to claim 6 or fragment thereof,

(b) reagent(s) for the amplification of Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequences with the primer(s) in (a), and

(c) reagent(s) for the detection of an amplified Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence in the amplification products.

26. (Currently amended) A vector molecule comprising at the nucleic acid sequence according to Claim 7.

27. (Currently amended) A vector molecule comprising at the nucleic acid sequence according to Claim 8.

28. (Previously presented) A method for the amplification and the detection of an Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence in a sample comprising:
  - (a) providing a sample,
  - (b) amplifying an Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence present in the sample with at least one nucleic acid sequence according to claim 7 or fragment thereof, and
  - (c) detecting the presence or absence of an amplified Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence in the amplification products, wherein the presence of an amplified Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence indicates that the sample contains an Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence.
29. (Previously presented) A method for the amplification and the detection of an Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence in a sample comprising:
  - (a) providing a sample,
  - (b) amplifying an Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence present in the sample with at least one nucleic acid sequence according to claim 8 or fragment thereof, and
  - (c) detecting the presence or absence of an amplified Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence in the amplification products, wherein the presence of an amplified Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence indicates that the sample contains an Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence.
30. (Previously presented) A test amplification kit for detecting the presence of an Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence in a sample comprising:
  - (a) a set of primers comprising at least one nucleic acid sequence according to claim 7 or fragment thereof,
  - (b) reagent(s) for the amplification of Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequences with the primer(s) in (a), and
  - (c) reagent(s) for the detection of an amplified Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence in the amplification products.

31. (Previously presented) A test amplification kit for detecting the presence of an Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence in a sample comprising:
  - (a) a set of primers comprising at least one nucleic acid sequence according to claim 8 or fragment thereof,
  - (b) reagent(s) for the amplification of Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequences with the primer(s) in (a), and
  - (c) reagent(s) for the detection of an amplified Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence in the amplification products.
32. (New) An isolated nucleic acid sequence, comprising the nucleic acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO:1 or a subsequence thereof, wherein said subsequence encodes a peptide comprising at least 12 contiguous amino acids of an Epstein-Barr Virus VCA-p18 protein and wherein said peptide comprises an epitope that is immunochemically reactive with antibodies to the Epstein-Barr Virus VCA-p18 protein.
33. (New) An isolated nucleic acid sequence, comprising the nucleic acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 3 or a subsequence thereof, wherein said subsequence encodes a peptide comprising at least 12 contiguous amino acids of an Epstein-Barr Virus VCA-p40 protein and wherein said peptide comprises an epitope that is immunochemically reactive with antibodies to the Epstein-Barr Virus VCA-p40 protein.
34. (New) An isolated nucleic acid sequence, comprising the nucleic acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO:1 or a subsequence thereof, wherein said subsequence encodes an Epstein-Barr Virus peptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:5 or SEQ ID NO:6 or a combination of both, wherein said peptide is immunochemically reactive with antibodies to the Epstein-Barr Virus VCA-p18 protein.